



ENGLISH SERVICE
The Voice of the Andes
Casilla 691, Quito, Ecuador

February 27, 1985

Mr. Chuck Vesei
420 Philip Road
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USA

Dear Chuck,

Greetings from Quito, Ecuador!!

Thank you for filling out and returning the HCJB questionnaire. We appreciate the time you have taken. Your answers help us to get to know you a little more so we can serve you better. If you ever have any additional comments on our programming, please feel free to share them with us.

I'd like to say that I was pleased to see from your survey that you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. It's great to know that God has some of His children living in your town. Namely you!! What a special promise we have in I. John 5:11, 12. Since you have received Him you can have Him, and since you have Him...you have life! Congratulations!!

If we can be of any help to you in your spiritual life, please don't hesitate to write. We'd like to truly be your friend.

Rejoicing in Christ,

W. Glen Volkhardt
Director, English Service

WGV:mm

**how to
Live the
Spirit-filled
Life**



how to Live the Spirit-filled Life

Occasionally we hear of people who, having lived and died in poverty, turned out to have had thousands of dollars in savings. We wonder why they hoarded their wealth. But how often *we* as Christians do not utilize our spiritual resources in Christ.

The Spirit-filled life is available to all who are believers in Jesus Christ. The Bible says that we are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit the moment we receive Christ as Savior. We are complete in Him.¹ "For the Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."² Anyone who does *not* have the Holy Spirit within him is not in

us who delivers us from our old nature, gives us power to resist sin and Satan and to live a life pleasing to God.

Third, the Holy Spirit gives us power to witness for Christ. "But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."⁸

This does not mean that you will suddenly become a great preacher, or that God will send you out as a missionary—although He might. But since Jesus came "to seek and to save the lost"⁹ it's logical that those who are filled with His Spirit should also have a desire to tell others about Christ.

Fourth, the Holy Spirit helps us to experience the "abundant life" that Jesus promised His followers.¹⁰ This is not a life "abundant" with material things, or a life free from problems, but a life rich in God's grace and joy. "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit. . ."¹¹

Fifth, the Holy Spirit's purpose is to bring

us closer to Christ and through our lives to bring glory to Him. "We all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."¹²

How To Be Filled With the Spirit.

1. *Ask God to fill you.* "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us; and if we know that He hear us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."¹³

We are filled with the Spirit by faith. Based upon the authority of God's Word, we *know* that He will fill us with His Spirit when our sins have been confessed and we are walking in faith according to His Word.

2. *Confess your sins.* The penalty for our sin was dealt with, once and for all, on the cross. But we need daily cleansing. The Bible promises that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."¹⁴

There is a practical side to this. If you have wronged someone, or done something that is not in accord with the Word of God, the Holy

Spirit may prompt you to right the situation. If so, don't hesitate to obey.

3. *Read God's Word daily.* Jesus said, "He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me."¹⁵

We obey Christ because we love Him. But in order to obey, we have to know what His commandments are. That's why it is important to spend time in His Word daily.

God's Word has practical advice on how to apply the Spirit-filled life to everyday human relationships in Ephesians 5:18-6:20.

4. *The Christian life is a daily walk with God.* Begin each day in prayer: praising God for who He is, asking Him to cleanse you and fill you with His Spirit and praying for your needs and the needs of others. Read His Word each morning: seeking wisdom for whatever the day may bring and God's promises to sustain you.

Being filled with the Spirit is not a one-time experience, nor does it depend upon our feelings. Our moods fluctuate, and spiritual "highs" do not last long. But the Holy Spirit can work in us regardless of our feelings. As we daily walk by faith in the Lord Jesus and in obedience to God's Word, we can know the fullness of the Spirit-filled life.

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the family of God.

However, we can be *indwelt* by the Spirit, but not *filled* with the Spirit. A preacher once explained it this way: the Holy Spirit can be *resident* in our lives but not *President*. The result of not allowing the Spirit to rule the old nature is that we may live in spiritual poverty, never reaching the full potential of what we could be in Christ.

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to renounce the works of the flesh (the Christian's old nature) and trust Christ to produce the fruit of His Spirit in us.

The Bible defines the works of the flesh as adultery, fornication, lasciviousness (lust), idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousy (quarreling), wrath, factions, seditions, heresies, murders, drunkenness, revelings, "and the like."³

But as we *daily* allow the Spirit to empower us, the works of our flesh can be replaced by the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, long-suffering (patience), kindness, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control.⁴

The Apostle Paul puts it this way: "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

"And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind. . ."⁵

As someone has said, the problem with "living sacrifices" is that they keep crawling off the altar! We must daily commit our lives to the Lord, asking His guidance and the power of His Spirit in whatever situations we face.

Why must we be filled with the Spirit?

First, the Bible commands it. "Wherefore, be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, in which is excess, but be filled with the Spirit."⁶

Second, because "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."⁷ Once we accepted Christ as Savior, we became targets for spiritual warfare. It is God's Spirit within

us who delivers us from our old nature, gives us power to resist sin and Satan and to live a life pleasing to God.

Third, the Holy Spirit gives us power to witness for Christ. "But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."⁸

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Bible References:

¹Colossians 2:10; ²Romans 8:9,14; ³Galatians 5:19-21; ⁴Galatians 5:22,23; ⁵Romans 12:1,2a; ⁶Ephesians 5:17,18; ⁷Ephesians 6:12; ⁸Acts 1:8; ⁹Luke 19:10; ¹⁰John 10:10; ¹¹I Corinthians 2:9,10a; ¹²II Corinthians 3:18; ¹³I John 5:14,15; ¹⁴I John 1:9; ¹⁵John 14:21a.

If you would like more information on the Christian life, write to the address below for helpful Christian literature.



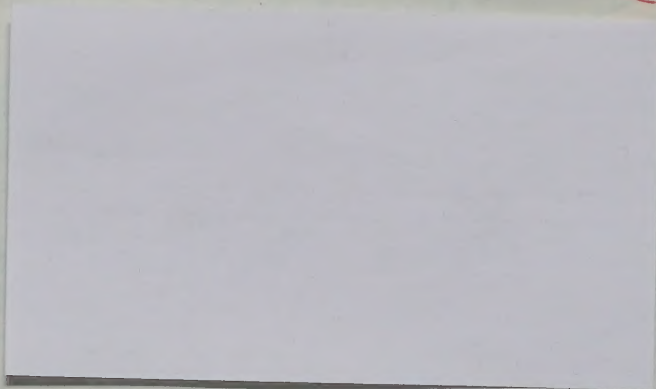
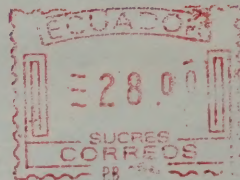
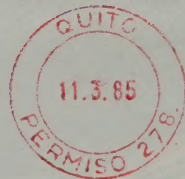
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